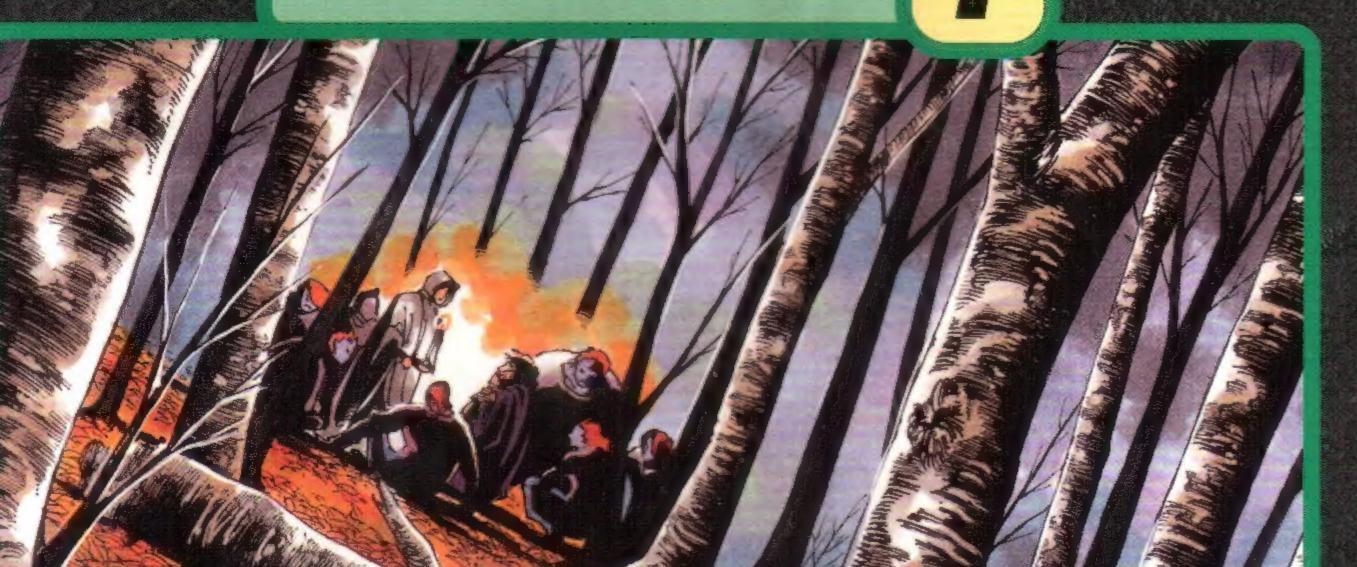




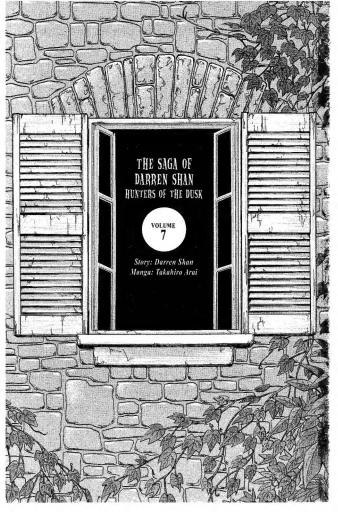
THE SAGA OF

DARREN SHAN

VOLUME



ART BY TAKAHIRO ARAI



A SUMMARY OF THE VAMPIRE PRINCE:

DARREN EXPOSED KURDA'S TREACHERY AND BRILLIANTLY FOUGHT OFF AN IMPENDING VAMPANEZE ATTACK. BEFORE HIS EXECUTION, HOWEVER, KURDA ANNOUNCED THE ARRIVAL OF THE DREAD VAMPANEZE LORD, PROPHESIED TO DESTROY THE VAMPIRE RACE. WITH KURDA'S EXECUTION, A TERRIBLE WAR OVER THE FATE OF VAMPIRES AND VAMPANEZE HAD BEGUN. DUE TO HIS BRAVERY AND CUNNING, DARREN WAS AWARDED THE RANK OF VAMPIRE PRINCE. SIX YEARS LATER...

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CHAPTER 55: WAR COUNCIL



WHEN THE SPIDER BIT MY BEST FRIEND STEVE...

...I WAS
FORCED TO
ABANDON MY
HUMANITY
IN ORDER
TO SAVE HIS
LIFE.

...WHEN I STOLE THE AMAZING PERFORMING TARANTULA, MADAM OCTA, FROM HER VAMPIRE OWNER.

FOR ME, THE TRAGEDY BEGAN FOURTEEN YEARS EARLIER

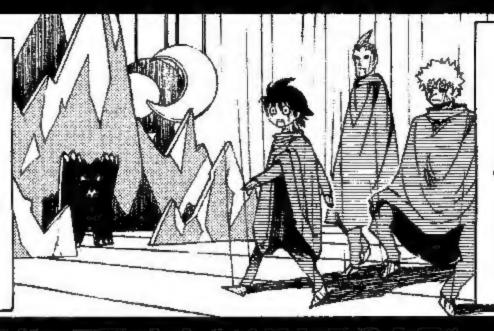
...BY TRAVELLING
THE WORLD AS
AN ASSISTANT TO
MR. CREPSLEY, A
BLOOD-DRINKING
CREATURE OF
THE NIGHT.



I PAID FOR MY CRIME...



THERE, I
UNDERTOOK
THE TRIALS OF
INITIATION IN
ORDER TO PROVE
THAT I WAS
WORTHY OF BEING
CONSIDERED A
FULL-FLEDGED
VAMPIRE...



ON OUR
TRAVELS
AROUND THE
WORLD, MR.
CREPSLEY AND
I STOPPED
BY VAMPIRE
MOUNTAIN.

IN FACT, KURDA WAS IN LEAGUE WITH THEM.



BUT ALONG THE WAY, WE RAN INTO A GROUP OF VAM-PANEZE!

THEY'RE BOTH
DESCENDED FROM
THE SAME RACE,
BUT THERE IS
ONE MAJOR
DIFFERENCE WITH
THE VAMPANEZE.



THE
PURPLESKINNED
VAMPANEZE
ARE NATURAL
ENEMIES
OF THE
VAMPIRES.

...THEY ALWAYS KILL THE VICTIM.



WHEN THEY
DRINK THE
BLOOD OF
THEIR
HUMAN
PREY...

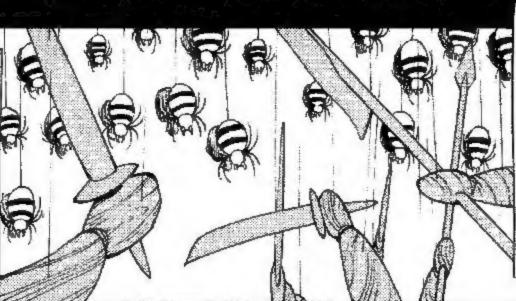
MY FRIENDS
KURDA AND
GAVNER HAD
TO HELP ME
ESCAPE SO THAT
I WOULDN'T BE
PUT TO DEATH.



...BUT I

FAILED!

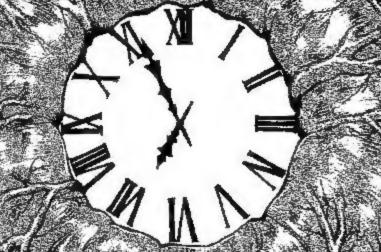




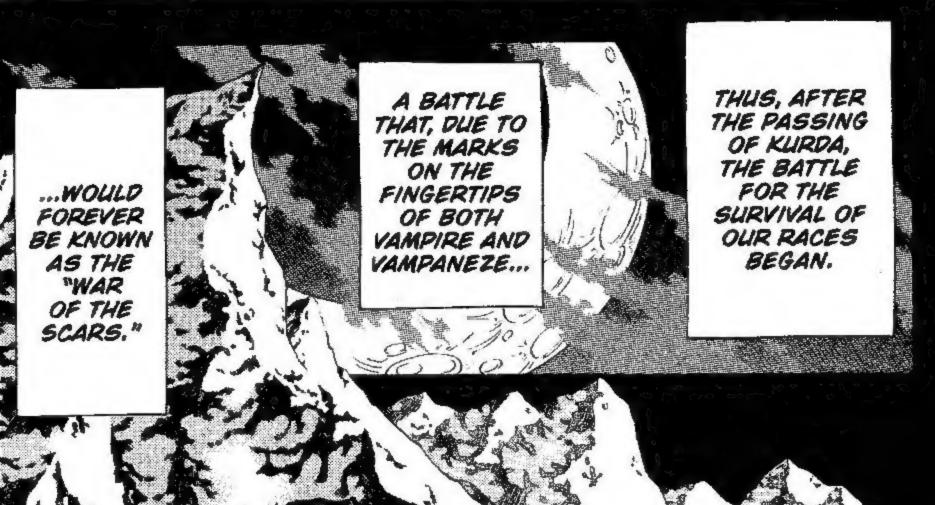
WHILE THERE
WAS NO LOVE
LOST BETWEEN
VAMPANEZE AND
VAMPIRES, AN
UNEASY TRUCE
HAD KEPT THE
TWO AT PEACE
FOR HUNDREDS
OF YEARS.



THERE WOULD
BE NO FUTURE
FOR VAMPIREKIND UNLESS
THEY COULD
DESTROY THE
LORD BEFORE
HIS RISE TO
POWER.



VAMPANEZE
ACROSS THE
WORLD WERE
PREPARING FOR
THE VIOLENT,
BLOODY WAR
THAT WOULD
COME.





...WHILE KURDA
WAS KILLED
WHEN HE
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN A PRINCE
IS AN IRONY
THAT ISN'T
LOST ON ME.

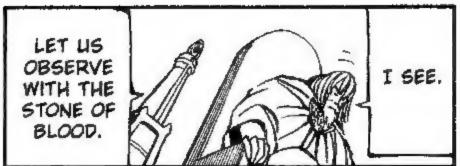


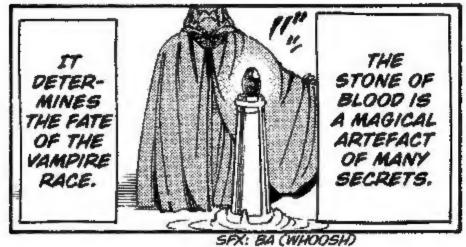
THE FACT
THAT I HAVE
BECOME A
PRINCE WHEN
I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
KILLED...

11/11/1 TWO IN MY PAST YEARS AGO, SIX YEARS I EVEN ATTEMPTED AS A PRINCE, THE TRIALS I I'VE STAYED HAD ON VAMPIRE FAILED MOUNTAIN. EARLIER CULTIVATING AND MY KNOWLEDGE PASSED AND STRENGTH. THEM EASILY.

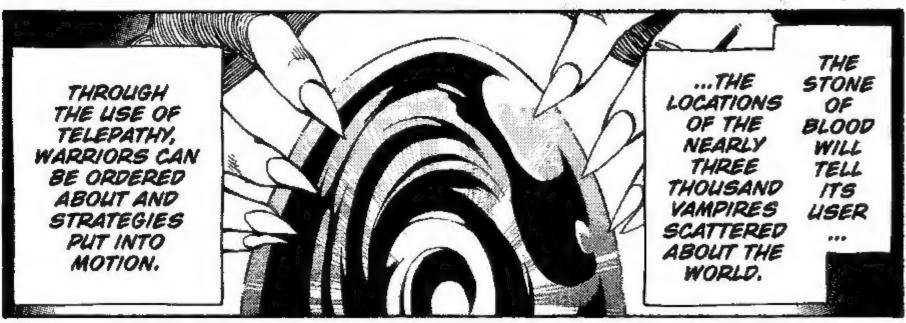
...I WAS
MADE
ONE OF
THE FIVE
VAMPIRE
PRINCES
WHO RULE
OVER THE
VAMPIRE
RACE.

RECOGNITION OF MY DEFEAT OF THE VAMPANEZE























BUT HAVE YOU SEEN THE NAME OF THE CITY?





YES. MY ORIGINAL HOME.

I CANNOT SEE WHY. IT IS NOT A LOCATION OF ANY IMPORTANCE.

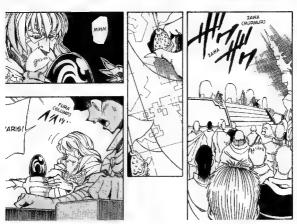


WHAT
COULD
IT MEAN?
HAVE THE
VAMPANEZE
MADE A BASE
THERE?





















HE MR.
IS AN OR- CREPSLEY
IS AN OR- IS IN A
DINARY PECULIAR
WITH NO
RECOGNISABLE
RANK...







YOU SHOULD REST, PARIS.









BUT THIS HAS BEEN A TAXING NIGHT.



...IS A ANYONE FOOL, A LIAR, OR BOTH.



VERY WELL. I WILL NOT ARGUE WITH YOU.





MANIPULA-TION OF THE STONE OF BLOOD HAD LEFT PARIS COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

10





SURELY YOU ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE VENTURE THERE NOW!



DO NOT PLACE YOUR OWN CONCERNS AHEAD OF THE CLAN'S.









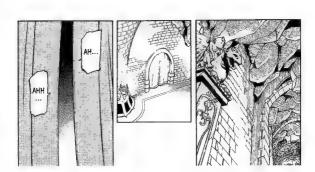


WHEN WILL YOU FINALLY REACH THE AGE WHERE I NEED NO LONGER WATCH OVER YOUR EVERY MOVE?





















...AND THEN THE DRAGONS ATTACKED YES. I WAS WANDERING IN A VAST WASTELAND



WAS
IT THE
SAME
NIGHTMARE
AGAIN?

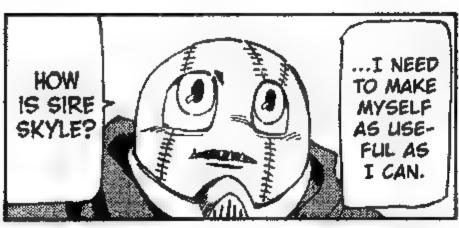




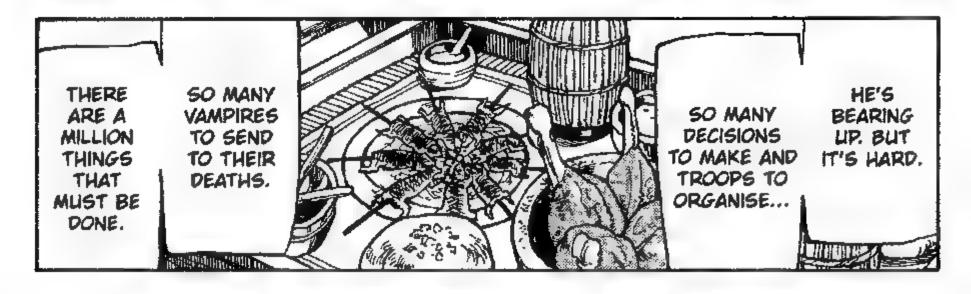




BUT
I CAN'T
LEAVE
PARIS TO
DEAL WITH
IT ALONE.

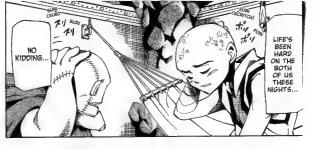




















DO YOU HAVE TO RETURN TO THE HALL OF PRINCES SOON?

MY HAIR DIDN'T WANT TO GROW BACK AFTER ALL THOSE BURNS, SO I JUST SHAVED OFF WHATEVER WAS LEFT.







WANTS TO SHOW YOU... SOME SPI-DERS



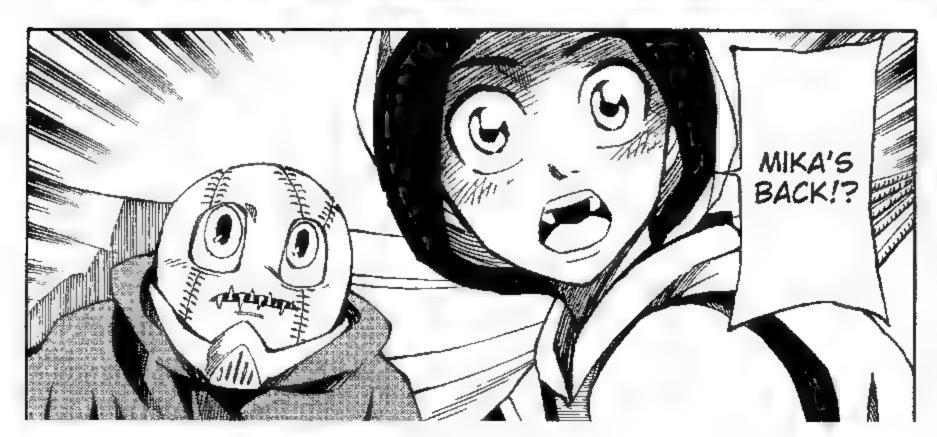
























BUT WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT THE VAMPANEZE LORD?



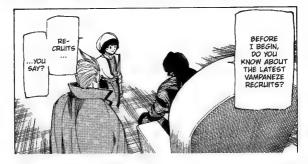




BUT I'VE HAD WORD OF HIM.









INCREAS-ING THEIR NUMBERS WAS ALWAYS A PART OF THEIR STRATEGY.



THIS IS OLD
NEWS. WE
EXPECTED THEM
TO BLOOD
RECKLESSLY.



...BUT
THESE NEW
RECRUITS
ARE CALLED
"VAMPETS."

THEIR
LORD
PLANS TO
BUILD AN
ARMY OF
HUMAN
HELPERS.



THEY ARE
UNBLOODED
HUMANS WHO
LEARN THE
RULES OF
VAMPANEZE
LIFE AND
WARFARE.











YES, AND
THEY'RE EVEN
STRICTER
THAN US WHEN
IT COMES TO
USING WEAPONS
AT ALL!



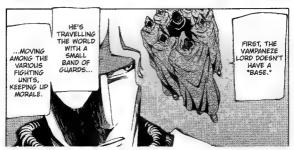
BUT THE
VAMPANEZE ARE
LIKE US—THEY
HAVE IRONCLAD
RULES AGAINST
THE USE OF
RANGED WEAPONS!



I CALIGHT A A CONE OF THESE VAMPETS A FEW MONTHS AGO...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE NOT AS HARD-ENED AS THE VAM-PANEZE.









WELL, AS LONG AS WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE HE IS...







ISH.













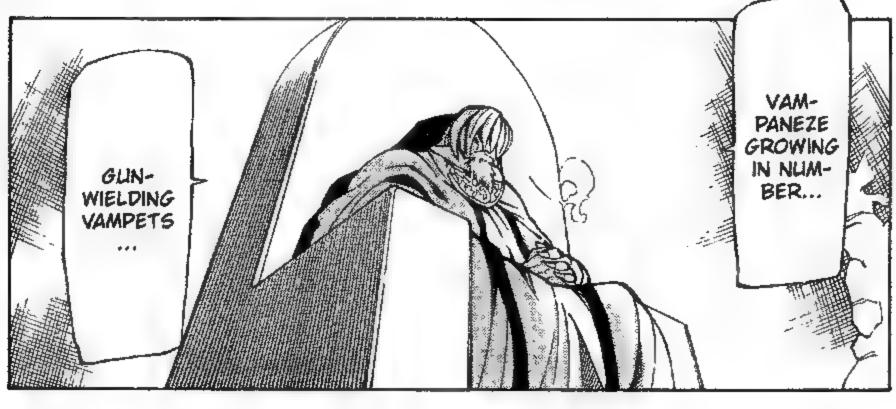


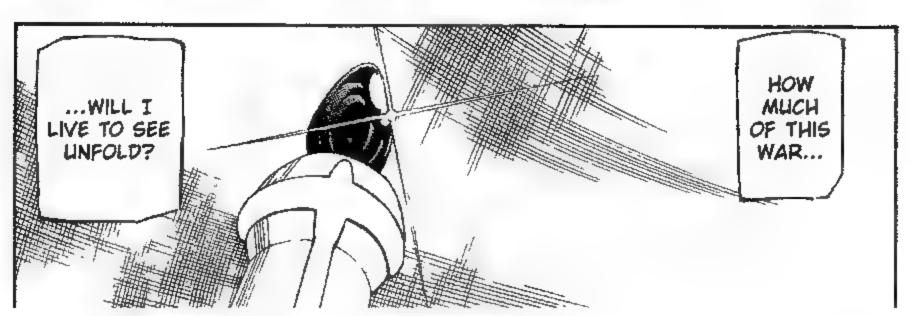


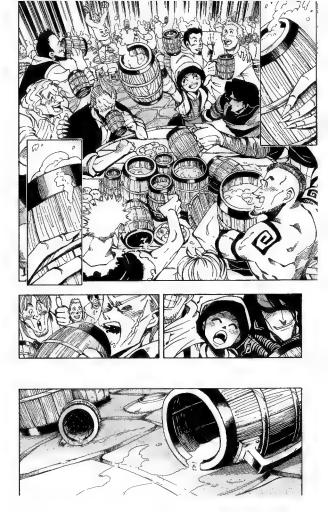
...I'D SAY HE WAS A GORILLA WITH A

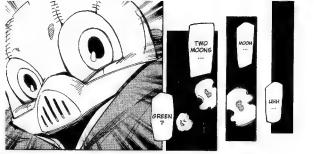
SORE

HEAD.



























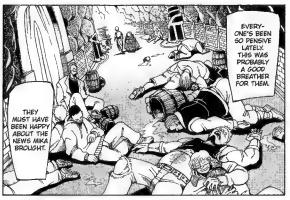




NOW THIS IS A DREAD-FUL SIGHT.



WHEW!
I FEEL
ABOUT A
HUNDRED
TIMES
BETTER
NOW!









I WONDER WHERE MR. CREPSLEY WOUND UP?













"I AM THE PRINCE, THE PRINCE OF ALE!" RIGHT?



"ALE,
ALE, I
DRINK
LIKE A
WHALE!























MUST BE LATE AUTUMN OR EARLY WINTER.

IT'S COLD ...















































CALLED

ALL THE VAMPIRES

INTO THE HALL OF

PRINCES.







THE FUTURE IS BOTH OPEN AND CLOSED.

BUT IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE MOST LIKELY TRUTH AHEAD OF YOU.



... THAT THE VAMPANEZE LORD WOULD WIPE YOU OUT.

SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS. AGO. I TOLD YOUR FORE-BEARS





OUT OF THE HUNDREDS OF "CAN BE'S" IN YOUR FUTURE.

THERE ARE SOME IN WHICH THE VAMPANEZE LORD AND HIS FOLLOW-ERS CAN BE DEFEATED.































KURDA SMAHLT WAS A TRAITOR. I'D RATHER DIE HONOURABLY THAN OWE MY LIFE TO A TRAITOR.



BUT YOU KILLED HIM, DESTROYING WHAT WAS PROBABLY YOUR BEST HOPE OF SURVIVAL IN THE PROCESS. THAT WAS SILLY.













YOU HAVE BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH YOUR INFOR-MATION, DESMOND. I THANK YOU.





WILL YOU EXTEND YOUR GENER-OSITY







I THINK

I KNOW

WHAT'S

COMING.

GETTING THAT FEEL-ING.

















EVERYBODY WITHIN A TEN-MILE RADIUS WILL BE ROASTED ALIVE!



I WANT TO BE THERE-IT SOUNDS LIKE GREAT FUN.



YOU TOO, YOU HAVE HARKAT! DELIVERED MY MESSAGE AND SERVED YOUR PURPOSE WILL YOU ADMIRABLY. JOIN ME?























IF THE SODS ARE LLING.



I WANTED

TO SHOW YOU SOME-THING BEFORE YOU LEFT

THIS.











SEBA

BE TH

TIME C

PLACE.

THIS



















...AWAITING A POSSIBLE ENCOUN-TER WITH THE THIRD HUNTER.









BEING A PRINCE IS A GREAT HONOUR, BUT IT'S NOT MUCH FUN.





HAVE HAD A ROUGH INITIATION, NOT TO MENTION THE MATTER OF THIS WAR.

YOU









YOU COULD HAVE EVEN BEEN A PRINCE!



PERHAPS THERE IS VAMPIRE BLOOD IN YOU.







YES, AND NOT ONLY ARE THERE THE USUAL STAKES, DRAGONS, AND SHADOW MEN...



HAVEN'T
BEEN
SLEEPING
WELL AT
NIGHT.
IS IT THE
NIGHTMARES
AGAIN?

YOU











































HMM...I FEEL REALLY GOOD TONIGHT FOR ONCE!























THIS RESULTS IN FULL-VAMPIRISM. ...ONE'S
VAMPIRE CELLS
EVENTUALLY
ATTACK THE
HUMAN CELLS
AND CONVERT
THEM.

BASICALLY,
IF ONE
REMAINS
A HALFVAMPIRE
FOR
ROUGHLY
FORTY
YEARS...

YOU MEAN I'VE BECOME A FULL-VAMPIRE?



PERHAPS
THE VAMPIRE
PRINCE BLOOD
FROM THE
CEREMONY SIX
YEARS AGO
SPED UP THE
PROCESS.

THERE ARE MANY MORE CHANGES YET AHEAD OF YOU. THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WILL BE HARD!



YOU ARE NOT THAT LUCKY.

















ALL OF IT







ENJOY THE

SUNLIGHT

WHILE YOU

STILL CAN.

SOON YOU

MUST BID IT

FAREWELL

FOREVER.

SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS, YOUR BLOOD WILL TURN COMPLETELY. THEN THERE IS

NO TURNING BACK. ОН GREAT. I HAVE

TO DO

THIS

AGAIN?

MOST IMPORTANTLY, YOU ARE STILL A HALF-VAMPIRE. THE TRANSFORMA-TION IS NOT COMPLETE.





























ШЛИ

CAN I PAY FOR WHAT











HE MUST HAVE KNOWN WHAT THEY MEANT. HE LOOK STARTLED WHEN HE SAW THE SCARS ON MY FINGER-TIPS.











WE WILL PROCEED AS PLANNED, BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.







WHAT IF AN ATTACK COMES?













THE RAYS WILL NOT HARM ME IN THE SHORT TIME IT WILL TAKE TO DEAL WITH THIS THREAT.



WILL YOU BE OKAY IN THE SUN?

WE WILL ACT AS THOUGH ALL IS NORMAL AND PRETEND TO SLEEP. WHEN THEY COME, WE

THEY WILL WAIT FOR FULL DAYLIGHT TO ATTACK.

WHAT'S THE PLAN? WHY ARE WE PREPARING ... TO CAMP HERE?



AND I WILL PROTECT MY EYES. AS YOU DID DURING YOUR PURGE.











HEY, LOOK AT THAT! THE SUN-GLASSES I GAVE YOU FOR CHRISTMAS YEARS AGO!



YOU AND YOUR EXCUSES ...





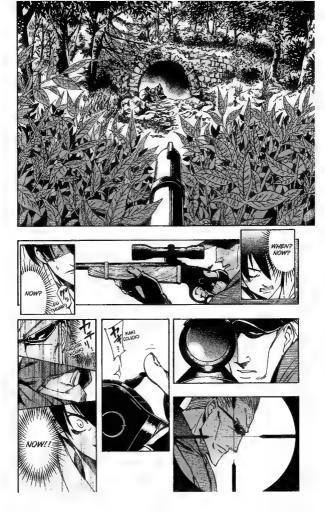






IT'S
BEEN YEARS
SINCE I'VE
PREPARED
TO FIGHT AN
ENEMY TO
THE DEATH.















AMAZING! I MOVE MUCH FASTER THAN I'D EVER IMAGINED I COULD!









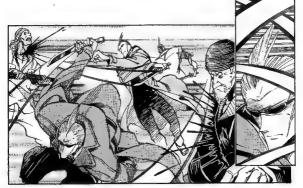




YOU'RE JUST... THAN T. A KID ...



























DIDN'T VANEZ BLANE TEACH YOU THAT?





WHAT KIND OF WEAPON IS THAT? AND WHO THREW IT?















I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS. PRINCE VANCHA MARCH, I PRESUME.

100 7 100



































BUT
THESE ARE
DANGEROUS
TIMES, VANCHA.
THE FUTURE
OF OUR RACE
IS AT STAKE.



I JUST DON'T TRUST THAT EVIL MEDDLER, TINY!

















CHAPTER 60: THE THIRD HUNTER



ON OUR
JOURNEY TO
THE CAVE OF
LADY EVANNA
TO FIND
CLUES ABOUT
THE LORD
OF THE
VAMPANEZE





















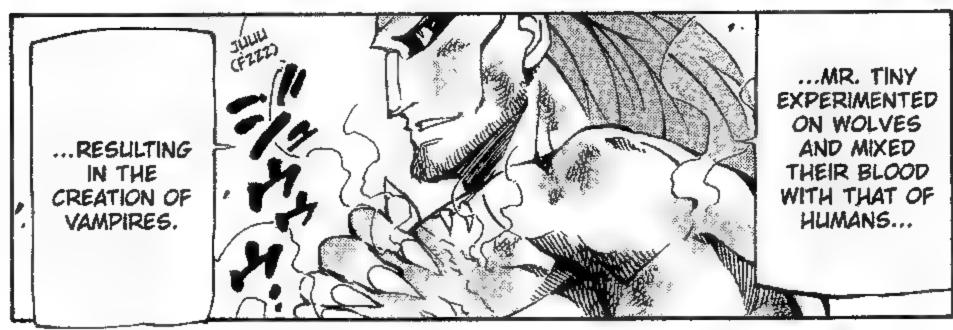


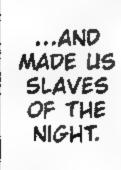














PERHAPS.
BUT IF THOSE
LEGENDS ARE
TRUE, OUR
SUN-RELATED
WEAKNESS IS
ALSO TINY'S
WORK.















THAT'S WIN-NING?





SEEMS THAT ONCE AGAIN

SFX: FURA (STAGGER)







IT'S
"VANCHA,"
"MARCH,"
OR "HEY,
UGLY!"
WHILE

NONE OF THAT "SIRE" BUSINESS, LARTEN!

YOU
ARE STILL
CONTINUING
YOUR BATTLE
WITH THE
SUN, SIRE?



VERY WELL... *UGLY*.









DARREN, MULDS, THAT GOES FOR YOU AS WELL!









HOW LONG
HAS THIS
WAR OF
YOURS
AGAINST
THE SUN
LASTED?





COFFIN.

THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM VANCHA'S LIFESTYLE.



...I'VE HUNTED!



SAME WITH THESE CLOTHES! THEY'RE SEWED TOGETHER FROM THE SKINS OF ANIMALS THAT ...







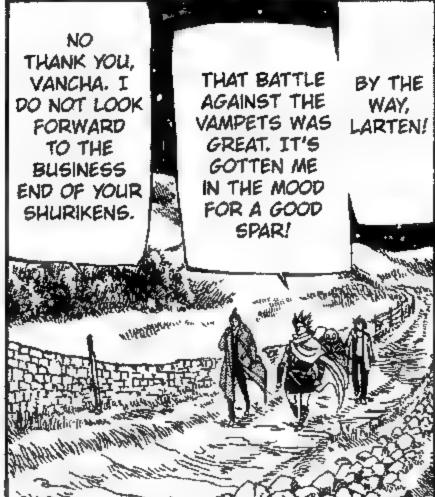
SEE: HE CHEWS HIS ...AND HE'S TOENAILS, SUPPOSED FIGHTS THE TO BE ABLE SUN EVERY TO OVER-DAY ... COME THE TERRIBLE VAMPANEZE LORD?

HOW?

LET'S









...SHE'S
BOTH THE
FAIREST
AND LEAST
ATTRACTIVE
OF ALL
WOMEN!



IF I HAD TO PUT IT SIMPLY













ONE WHO
LEARNS TO FIGHT
WITH HIS HANDS
ALWAYS HAS THE
ADVANTAGE OVER
THOSE WHO RELY
ON SWORDS AND
KNIVES.





CAN YOU STAND, DAR-REN?



THEY USE THEM TO HIDE THAT FEAR.



IF YOU ASK
ME, WEAPONS
ARE TOOLS OF
FEAR, USED BY
THOSE WHO
ARE AFRAID.













STILL FEEL LIKE USING IT?

WELL, THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE THE SWITCH NOW! YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO LEARN!



BWA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!

ARE
YOU SAYING
YOU DON'T
DESPISE
THEIR KIND?



YOU
THINK WE
SHOULD
LEARN
FROM
THE VAMPANEZE?

I THINK ALL
VAMPIRES
COULD STAND
TO LEARN
FROM THE
VAMPANEZE
THAT WAY.

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, YOU SHOULD HAVE TASTE IN YOUR WEAPONS.



VAM-PANEZE I DON'T ARE AGREE NOBLE WITH AND THEIR TRUE. FEEDING HABITS

















WHAT DID I TELL YOU? VANCHA IS A VAMPIRE AMONG VAMPIRES.

































































YOU HAVE CHANGED IN MANY WAYS, WITHIN AND WITHOUT, BUT I RECOGNISE YOU.



YES, LARKAT, THIS IS NOT YOUR FIRST VISIT.

BEFORE 17



YOU, HARKAT, ARE ELCOME, AS YOU WERE BEFORE.

ALAS, NO. I CAN'T SAY. THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT.



WHO WAS I? CAN YOU ... TELL ME?

YOU MEAN... YOU KNOW WHO I WAS ... BEFORE I BECAME A LITTLE PERSON?



















STILL, I HAVE PRESENTED YOU WITH GIFTS OVER THE YEARS, BUT THEY HAVEN'T SATISFIED ME.



...JUST A
LITTLE... I THINK AT
TOKEN. T HAVE A

I THINK AT LAST I HAVE A GIFT THAT WILL MAKE AMENDS. IT'S NOT SOMETHING

WILL STREET

















I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR A CAVE, YOU WHILE.

COME

INTO THE

THREE.













I FEEL WEREN'T MORE EXPECT-COM-ING ME FORT- TO TURN ABLE THIS WAY







SOUNDS GOOD...AS THOUGH YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT'LL HAPPEN.



IF
YOU WILL
EXCUSE
ME, I HAVE
BUSINESS
TO SEE
TO.









SHE SEEMS MUCH LIKE A VAMPIRE... BUT NOT. LADY EVANNA IS A VERY MYSTERIOUS PERSON.



BUT I THOUGHT VAMPIRES COULDN'T BEAR CHILDREN THE NORMAL WAY...







THERE WAS A IT VAMPIRE BEGINS COUPLE WELL NAMED OVER A CORZA THOUSAND AND YEARS SARFA AGO. WHO WISHED FOR A CHILD ...

THE E



EVENTUALLY, TINY RELENTED. HE SAID HE'D CREATE A WOMAN CAPABLE OF BEARING A VAMPIRE'S CHILD.

PESTERED TINY AND BEGGED HIM TO GIVE THE VAMPIRES HOPE.

FOR TWO

CENTURIES.

CORZA



...OR DESTROY US COM-PLETELY! A BOY AND
GIRL WHO
WOULD EITHER
MAKE THE
CLAN MORE
POWERFUL
THAN EVER...



THAT WOLF GAVE BIRTH TO TWO HUMAN CHILDREN.



NO ONE KNOWS IF THE BOY STILL LIVES



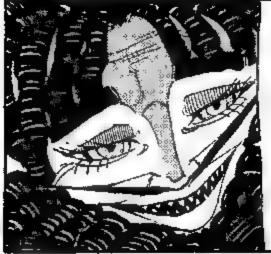
WITHIN A YEAR, THE CHILDREN WERE ADULTS AND LEFT TO SEEK THEIR DESTINY IN THE WILDS.



OLD FACTS.







I LACK
DESMOND'S
CLEAR INSIGHT
INTO THE
FUTURE, BUT
I SEE SOME
OF WHAT IS
TO COME, OR
MIGHT COME.



DO YOU KNOW IF WE'LL BE SUCCESS-FUL?







SELVES.





IF THAT'S
SETTLED,
I'LL PACK
MY THINGS
AND WE'LL
TAKE TO
THE ROAD.



... DESMOND
SHOULD
HAVE TOLD
PLAYING YOU THIS,
MIND BLIT HE
GAMES, OBVIOLISLY
NO CHOSE NOT
DOUBT. TO...



ONE MORE THING...



FOUR TIMES YOUR PATHS WILL CROSS WITH THAT OF THE VAMPANEZE LORD. IF YOU FAIL, THE VAMPANEZE ARE DESTINED TO WIN.



PREPARE YOU, SHOULD MATTERS COME TO THE WORST.

IT IS TO

I TELL YOU THE FOLLOWING NOT TO FRIGHTEN YOU, BUT BECAUSE I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW.





IF YOU
HAVE FACED
THE
VAMPANEZE
LORD FOUR
TIMES AND
FAILED TO
KILL HIM...













VANCHA'S BEEN QUIET FOR THE PAST DAY.

BUT WHEN IT'S STATED SO PLAINLY...



IT'S A
BATTLE
FOR THE
FOR THE
FATE OF
OUR
PEOPLE.
DEATH WAS
BOUND TO
BE A PART
OF IT.





















YES,
BUT HARKAT
CHOSE TO
COME WITH US,
TO SEARCH
FOR THE
VAMPANEZE
LORD.







LAY YOUR HANDS ON HARKAT'S

















HEH-HEH...
THE LITTLE
RUNT'S BEEN
CARRYING
A HEAVY
BURDEN ON HIS
SHOULDERS
ALL THIS
TIME.





I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW EVRA'S DOING.



WHICH MEANS WE HAVE BUT ONE DES-TINATION.



AND I, MY GOOD FRIEND, MR. TALL.

WE'VE BEEN TOO FOCUSED ON FATE AND PROPHECIES. WE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON ALL WE CAN ACTUALLY DO...



VANCHA'S RIGHT.
THERE'S NO USE
FRETTING OVER
A FUTURE THAT'S
STILL A MYSTERY
TO US.



WHAT I SAY NOW IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME. IT

MUST

GO NO

FARTHER.

THERE
IS MORE
THAT YOU
MUST KNOW
ABOUT THE
NIGHTMARE
HARKAT WAS
HAVING.



















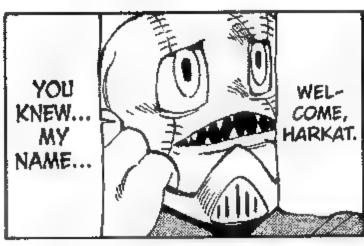


WAS
MERLA THE
GIRL YOU
NEEDED
HELP
PICKING
OUT A
PRESENT
FOR?































































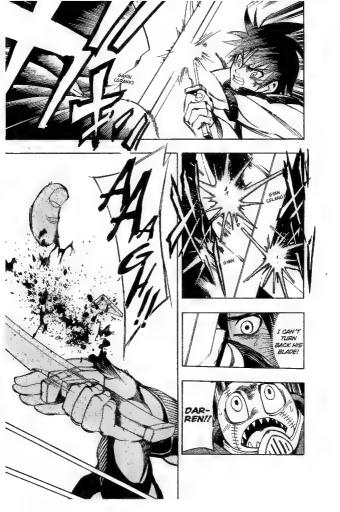
THERE

















































WHAT ARE YOU DOING, VANCHA!? YOU'RE LETTING HIM ESCAPE!





















WE WERE VERY CLOSE GROW-ING UP.







YOU MEAN YOU'RE...



WHA - ? VAM-PANEZE?







IT SICKENED
ME, SO I
DECIDED
TO GLIT.

TO A HALF-VAMPANEZE.

PRECISELY.
NO VAMPANEZE
I WAS WILL KILL ONE
SENTENCED BUT THAT LAW
TO DOESN'T APPLY

DEATH.

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE THAT EASY TO LEAVE THE VAMPANEZE...





IN THE END I MADE LIP MY MIND NOT TO PEED AT ALL, AND DIE.

I HAD NO WAY TO FEED ON MY VICTIMS WITHOUT DRINKING ENOUGH BLOOD TO KILL.



FOR SEVERAL YEARS I LIVED MISERABLY.



BUT HOW CAN YOU BLOOD SOMEONE AS A VAMPIRE IF HE'S ALREADY BEEN BLOODED AS A VAMPANEZE?



PARIS .. BLOODED YOU?



IT WAS THEN THAT I MET PARIS SKYLE.





AND HE BLOOD-ED ME ANY-WAY.

YE5 ARTEN PARIS KNEW THE RISKS

AT THE

SAME TIME

...AND IN TIME TRAINED TO BE A GEN-ERAL.



I WAS ABLE TO CONTROL MY FEEDING URGES NOW. I STUDIED LINDER PARIS...

HE GAVE ME HIS VAMPIRE BLOOD.

MAKING ME ONE OF YOUR KIND.

PARIS TOOK MY TAINTED BLOOD, AND HIS BODY'S NATURAL DEFENSES BROKE IT DOWN AND RENDERED IT HARMLESS.

SFX: GARI (SQUEEZE)



AFTER I'D PROVEN MYSELF MANY TIMES, I WAS ALLOWED TO BE PROMOTED TO PRINCE.

BUT THIS COULD EASILY HAVE KILLED HIM, JUST AS IT COULD HAVE KILLED ME.



PARIS KEPT MY PAST SECRET FROM EVERYONE EXCEPT THE OTHER PRINCES.















SHOULD HAVE BEEN ISN'T THAT A SPY, RIGHT DARREN.

YOU



I CAN BUT I WON'T.





















100

TO

HIM.













THAT'S RIGHT. LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE.



...AND YOU WILL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITHOUT.

THIS IS THE BEST WE CAN DO. IF IT GETS INFECTED, WE WILL CHOP IT OFF AGAIN...

114

IT IS UNFORTUNATE. BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN HARMED BY YOUR SLIP, AND ...



NONSENSE! ANY MAN WHO WOULD STRIKE A BROTHER IS NO MAN AT ALL.



IT'S MY HEAD YOU SHOULD BE CHOPPING OFF.









I WANT TO KNOW WHY SHE WAS CONSORTING WITH THE ENEMY AND PRETENDING TO BE AN ALLY!



OH, LARTEN, IF ONLY YOU KNEW!

DID I SAY SOME-THING FUNNY?

AHA HA HH!

I LOOK UPON YOU AS SILLY, WARRING BOYS.



THE DIVIDE
BETWEEN
VAMPIRES AND
VAMPANEZE
IS OF NO
INTEREST
TO ME.

THE WAR OF THE SCARS?



HOW-EVER, I CANNOT SIT IDLY AS IT ALL HAPPENS.

WHICHEVER
WAY THE
WAR OF THE
SCARS GOES,
I'LL HAVE TO
DEAL WITH
THE VICTORS.







DO YOU FINE GENTLE-MEN READ MYSTERY NOVELS?



IF YOU
HAVE SOMETHING THAT IS
PRECIOUS,
WHERE IS THE
BEST PLACE
TO HIDE IT?

HERE'S A LITTLE HINT.







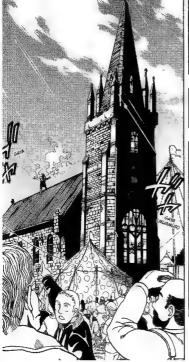
...HE WAS NO SERVANT// THE MAN IN THE ROBES...NOT GANNEN...



























MY
CHANCE
TO KILL
THE LORD
OF THE
VAMPANEZE
HAS
PASSED.

IT WON'T HELP, BUT IT WILL PUNISH...AND I DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED.



SHOULD WILL NOT HELP, KNOW! I'VE PONE IT!





AFTER ALL
THE HAUGHTY
LESSONS
AND BOASTS,
YOU'RE
NOTHING BUT
A COWARD
AND A FOOL.









BECAUSE HIS DUTY TO LEAD THE CLAN OUTWEIGHS EVERYTHING ELSE! AND WHY
IS IT
THAT A
PRINCE IS
NOT EXECUTED IF
HE FAILS
A TRIAL?



WE HAVE LEARNED VALLIABLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENEMY THIS THE WITHOUT LOSING ANY OF OUR OWN PEOPLE!



THERE
ARE STILL
THREE
CHANCES
REMAINING!













WE DECIDED
IT WOULD
BE FOR THE
BEST IF WE
LEFT THE
CIRQUE DU
FREAK.











YOU TOO, LARTEN.



TAKE CARE, HI-BERNIUS.

KILL
HARST, AND
YOU CAN
INFLUENCE
THE ODDS
OF FUTURE
SUCCESS
TO WEIGH
ON YOUR
SIDE.

THE SIX
YOU KILLED
WERE NORMAL
GUARDS
WHO CAN BE
REPLACED.
HARST IS
THE KEY.





I AM SORRY.
I'D HAVE
WARNED YOU,
BUT THOSE
WITH INSIGHT
INTO THE
FUTURE ARE
FORBIDDEN TO
CHANGE IT.



...IS THE PRIME PROTECTOR OF THE LORD OF THE VAM-PANEZE.



WHAT
I CAN
TELL YOU
IS THAT
GANNEN
HARST...

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A HOME FOR YOU HERE AT THE CIRQUE DU FREAK!











SO, WHEN WILL WE SEE THIS VAMPANEZE LORD NEXT?



HUNTERS OF THE DUSK 7 - END





PART 7111



NOW THAT MY ENTIRE WEEK IS FILLED WITH DRAFTING AND DRAWING A CHAPTER, CLEANING MY WORKPLACE, AND DOING LAUNDRY.

SHE'S THE ONLY

THING THAT KEEPS

ME GOING



IN THE AUTHOR'S COMMENTS FOR THIS VOLUME, I MENTIONED NANA THE BORDER COLLIE BOY IS SHE CUTE!

PART I

RELAX-

ATION

WHAT I LEARNED
LATTER IS THAT
SHE'S AN ENGLISH
BREED, AND
DARREN, SAN'S
FAMILY HAS ONE
AS WELL WHAT
A STRANGE
COINCIDENCE!











AS I'M SURE FANS
OF THE NOVELS
KNOW, THE
DESCRIPTION OF
HER APPEARANCE IS
SIMPLY GHASTLY









TO MEET MY

HEADED FOR

THE FAMOUS

JUNCTION.

PICCADILLY

CIRCUSII

OUT OF HEATHROW

MH00-IT WAS I DECIDED ON A ALREADY TIME AND PLACE DARK OUTSIDE (ENGLAND'S EDITOR, AND WE WINTER DAYS ARE VERY SHORT) BUT I WANTED TO GET STARTED TAKING PHOTOS

TWELL/E-HOUR FLIGHT? BIG DEAL!

ENGLAND IS

COLD! BUT

WAIT . I FEEL

LIKE IT MIGHT

HAVE BEEN

COLDER IN

TOKYO. IT ACTUALLY FEELS NICE HERE

DAY ONE

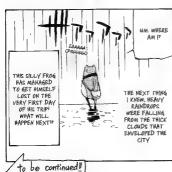














CREATOR COMMENT





VAMPIRES. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE FINDING A MORE FASCINATING FICTIONAL CREATURE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE A VAMPIRE, BOYS AND GIRLS . . AND JOIN DARREN ON THIS JOURNEY THROUGH THE EERIE DARK OF NIGHT.

ENJOY ARTIST TAKAHIRO ARAI'S COMMENTARY FROM THE ORIGINAL DUST JACKETS OF THE FIRST SEVEN VOLUMES OF DARREN SHAN!





I'VE BEEN COLLECTING PHOTOS OF EUROPE FOR REFERENCE USE. WHEN I LOOK AT THEM, I THINK "WHAT FANTASY!" THE ANCIENT CASTLES THAT SEEM SURE TO HARBOUR GHOSTS, DARK FORESTS FILLED WITH FAIRY SPIRITS... IT'S SUCH A BEWITCHING PLACE.





I FINALLY MANAGED TO FIND A JAR OF PICKLED ONIONS AT AN IMPORTED FOODS STORE. RATHER THAN BEING SLICED, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT THEY WERE CUTE, LITTLE, WHOLE ONIONS. WHEN I POPPED ONE INTO MY MOUTH, A POWERFULLY SOUR TASTE SPREAD ACROSS MY TONGUE.





WELL, WELL, WELL! I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING WITH THE AUTHOR, MR. DARREN SHAN HIMSELF, WHEN HE VISITED JAPAN FOR AN AUTOGRAPH SIGNING TOUR!! EFFEEEEK!! I WILL WRITE MORE ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE IN THE BONUS MATERIAL OF VOLUME SIX. IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE...





ODDLY ENOUGH, FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEM-BER, WHILE I'M WORKING ON THE SCRIPT FOR THE MANGA AND PLANNING EACH PANEL, I DON'T GET HUNGRY, OR AT LEAST, I DON'T NOTICE IT. I BET I COULD GO TWO OR THREE DAYS WITHOUT EATING IF I WAS JUST DOING THIS STAGE OF THE MANGA PROCESS. BUT WHEN I'M ACTUALLY DRAWING UP THE FINISHED PAGES, I'VE ALWAYS GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING HAND TO NIBBLE ON, NO MATTER WHAT, THERE'S SOME BAG OF SNACKS AT MY SIDE, I WONDER IF I'VE GOT CONCENTRA-TION ISSUES ...





I RECENTLY RETURNED TO MY PARENTS' HOUSE TO FIND THAT MY ROOM WAS NOT AS I HAD LEFT IT. THE ROOM'S NEW OWNER IS NANA, A VERY FRIENDLY AND ACTIVE BORDER COLLIE. SHE LIKES TO BITE THINGS. SHE ESPECIALLY LIKES TO BITE MY HAND. IN FACT, I CAN SEE BLOOD. BUT SHE'S CUTE ENOUGH TO GET AWAY WITH IT.





WHEN I READ LETTERS I GET FROM FANS OF THE ORIGINAL NOVELS, I'M ALWAYS SURPRISED BY THE NUMBER OF KURDA FANS. FOR THAT REASON, IT ALWAYS TAKES MORE EFFORT THAN USUAL TO DRAW KURDA IN MANGA FORM. THE STAKES ARE HIGH . . .